



## Rabin names new army commander

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday named Major General Ilan Biran head of Israel's central command, which includes the occupied West Bank, the army said in a statement. Gen. Biran is to supervise the army's pullout from the West Bank region of Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Gen. Biran, 48, is currently commander of the ordnance corps, but has spent most of his life in the Golani infantry brigades. Prior to his appointment as ordnance head in 1989, he led the army's operational command and is famous for leading the improvised division that took west Beirut during Israel's 1982 Lebanon war. He has served in the army since 1964, and his training includes a stint at a marines command school in the United States, the statement said. He also spent 1992-1993 studying strategy and economic policy at Georgetown University's school of diplomacy. Gen. Biran, whose appointment takes effect on Sunday, replaces Maj. Gen. Danny Yatom.

# Jordan Times

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## Kabul under fierce shelling

KABUL (AP) — Thousands of shells hit Afghanistan's battered capital Tuesday as a multinational delegation of Muslim clerics was to arrive to broker an end to the fighting. Two people were killed and 45 others, all civilians, were wounded in battle between rival factions. Fifty-two Muslim clerics arriving in Kabul on Tuesday have asked for a ceasefire, but so far neither side appears willing to stop fighting. A temporary truce brokered by Tunisia's ex-finance minister, Mohmood Messiri, fell apart over the weekend. Thirty people have been killed and hundreds wounded since.

## Israel 'regrets' shooting journalist

TEL AVIV (AP) — An army officer apparently violated orders in shooting an American photographer in a Gaza Strip refugee camp, the army said Tuesday. An army statement said it "regrets" the shooting of John Gaps, 35, a photographer for the Associated Press, who was wounded in the knee by a plastic bullet on March 7. Mr. Gaps said he arrived outside an army base where a demonstration had taken place earlier in the day and photographed an elderly man rolling a tire off the street if children would not light it and start a clash. "I was photographing the scene when I noticed a soldier near the gate to the army base about 100 yards away from me. He was down on one knee, in a shooting position. He had a scope on his rifle and he was tracking me," Mr. Gaps said at the time. Mr. Gaps said there were other soldiers near the sniper who saw the incident.

**Dutch claims \$490m in Gulf war damages**

THE HAGUE (R) — Dutch individuals and companies have filed compensation claims of 950 million guilders (\$490 million) for damages caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday. The ministry is coordinating Dutch claims and forwarding them to a special United Nations fund set up to compensate victims of the invasion that led to the 1991 Gulf war. Last month the fund said it had received \$40 billion worth of claims from individuals, companies and governments, but had just \$20 million in the bank to meet them.

## Sudan, U.S. envoy not on speaking terms

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's president says his government has stopped speaking with the U.S. ambassador because the diplomat uses official encounters to "insult Sudan." The government newspaper Al Engaz Al Watani reported Tuesday that Omar Hassan Al Bashir said the only hope for renewed dialogue is for Washington to accept Sudan's Islamic orientation. General Bashir told the paper his government was disappointed because it had hoped for "a sincere, fruitful" dialogue with the United States and Ambassador Donald Pettersson.

## Yeltsin says his health is top-notch

MADRID (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday laughed off reports that he suffers everything from cirrhosis of the liver to heart disease, saying he is in top physical condition. Mr. Yeltsin, in Spain on the second day of a three-day official visit (see page 10) planned to visit the Barcelona doctors on Wednesday who treated him for back pains in 1990, but he said the trip was just to thank the physicians for their work. No physical examination was scheduled, he told reporters. Mr. Yeltsin said that his ability to keep up a rigorous work schedule and play tennis and swim during his leisure time showed he was in excellent condition. "I would like all of you to have such good health," he joined with reporters. Opposition politicians in Russia have claimed the 63-year-old Yeltsin suffers from a variety of ailments.

two men agreed to continue discussions next week.

American civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson was with Mr. Rabin during his conversation with Mr. Arafat and urged the PLO leaders to condemn the April 6 bombing in the northern Israeli town of Afula, which killed eight and wounded 35, the broadcast reported.

WAFA said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin "focused on the need to reach tangible results on the ground."

"The discussions also dealt with the importance of removing all obstacles which hinder the peace process in view of the April 13 deadline set for the Israeli withdrawal," WAFA reported.

The agency did not give further details.

Mr. Rabin, in an interview published on Tuesday, said he was now hoping for agreement on the details by mid-May.

"We cannot set a date when the agreement will be reached," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post. "But if everything goes well, I believe that by sometime in the first half of May, there is hope."

Gen. Shahak and Dr. Shaath held separate news conferences in Cairo after talks adjourned for the Israelis to return home to observe holidays on Wednesday and Thursday.

Their statements confirmed that the two sides would miss the second important deadline set in the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, which called for Israel to begin its troop withdrawal Dec. 13 and complete it today.

The PLO had been pushing for some kind of agreement by the deadline, while Israeli officials said long ago the target would be missed.

Israel Radio said Mr. Arafat initiated the call and that the

urged finishing the negotiations "as soon as possible," and Dr. Shaath echoed the sentiment: "We recognise that it is our responsibility to speed up this process."

Gen. Shahak suggested the Palestinians could be governing themselves within two months.

He predicted "a few weeks" of further negotiations and added that the Palestinian authority will take responsibility for governing Gaza and Jericho "no more than three weeks after signing of the agreement."

Dr. Shaath told reporters he foresaw at least two more weeks of talks to reach a settlement. This, he noted, would have to be reviewed by Mr. Rabin's government and the PLO leadership.

Dr. Shaath said Mr. Arafat called his conversation with Mr. Rabin "positive and important."

Both chief negotiators said that of the 9,000 Palestinian police, 7,000 will come from outside Jericho and Gaza. Six thousand will enter the territories immediately after the signing, and the rest in three months.

Palestinian sources close to the talks have said the "outsiders" will be allowed to bring 30,000 to 35,000 family members.

That would constitute the first major repatriation of Palestinians since the creation of Israel in 1948 in what had been Palestine.

The policemen will be armed with Kalashnikov automatic rifles and their officers with pistols, Dr. Shaath said. Israel Radio said the force also would have 45 armoured personnel carriers and 120 medium-range machine guns.

On the release of Palestinian prisoners, disagreement continues.

On Tuesday, Gen. Shahak

said the sounds of gunfire from settlers were heard frequently in the area. "Whenever settlers see four or five Palestinians walking together, they start shooting — with or without stone throwing," said Mr. Abu Dayah.

A reporter found what appeared to be a .22-calibre brass bullet casing in front of the Khalayef house. There was also a broken pane in the glass of the front door where the fatal bullet apparently entered. Hospital officials said she was struck in the chest.

Neighbours said there was frequent stoning of Israeli cars on the road, which links Jewish settlements with the main highway to Jerusalem. School classes let out about 10 minutes before the shooting, and some residents said there was stone throwing.

The army imposed a curfew on the village.

In Ramallah, the city's 30,000 residents were under curfew as soldiers searched for Palestinian activists in a house belonging to the parents of Abeer Wehedi, who was convicted this week for her part in the 1991 killing of a settler, witnesses said.

Troops bulldozed the house to the ground and arrested Wehedi's parents, but the fugitives escaped, they said. Israel radio reported the Wehedis were close friends of Mr. Arafat.

Also Tuesday, Palestinian witnesses said settlers and troops shot to death Awad Abdullah Abbas, 23, during stone throwing clashes near Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah.

In Gaza, troops shot two youths, one aged 12 and the other 13, during stone-throwing clashes in Bureij refugee camp, reporters said.

Both were in serious condition with head wounds, they said.

The outstanding problem on indirect taxation was the rate of value added tax (VAT) to be levied in the Palestinian territories. Mr. Shohat said Israel has a 17 per cent rate while the Palestinians wanted to set a 15 per cent level.

He said both sides agreed on the principle of open economic relations but considerable work remained to be done on import and export duties, labour, tourism and insurance.



KING RECEIVES IRAQI MESSAGE: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received a message of appreciation for Jordan's honourable stands towards Iraq from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The message was conveyed to the King by Iraqi Information and Cultural Minister Hamed Yousef Hamadi, who was received in an audience attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeld Ben Shaker and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail Al Welsi. The minister conveyed President Saddam's appreciation for Jordan's support for the Iraqi people, particularly following Iraq's observance of all the resolutions issued by the U.N. Security Council during the Gulf crisis, Petra added.

## Austrian president briefed on Jordan's water shortages

AMMAN (Petra) — Austrian President Thomas Klestil and an accompanying delegation on Tuesday visited archaeological and historical sites in Jordan.

Mr. Klestil, who arrived in Amman Monday on a three-day state visit, started his tour Tuesday by visiting Umm Qais area where he was briefed on its historical and strategic significance.

Then the Austrian president visited the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) premises in Deir Alla and was briefed by JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah on endeavours to develop the Jordan Valley.

Dr. Wishah said the Yarmouk River, which starts in Jordanian and Syrian territories, flows into the Jordan River south of Lake Tiberias at a rate of 400,000,000 cubic metres annually.

He said the lower tributaries of the Jordan River flow into it between Lake Tiberias and the Dead Sea.

(Continued on page 5)

## Jordan receives Qatari invitation

AMMAN (R) — Qatar invited Jordan on Tuesday to attend the fifth round of multilateral Middle East peace talks on disarmament due to open in Doha on May 2, official sources said. Amman has linked resumed peace talks with Israel to the end of searches of Jordan-bound ships by a U.S.-led force policing trade sanctions against Iraq. It has indicated that it might send one or an observer to Qatar if the searches continue. Jordan earlier said it was likely to send an observer when Oman hosts multilateral water talks later this month. An Israeli team, the first to make a public visit to a Gulf Arab state, is to attend. The invitation to Doha was handed to Talal Al Hassan, minister of state for foreign affairs, by the ambassador of Qatar — the only Gulf state to hold ministerial-level talks with Israel — and envoys of the United States and Russia. Washington and Moscow are co-sponsoring the two-year-old Middle East peace talks. Gulf Arab states will host

## Klestil pays tribute to King

AMMAN (Petra) — Austrian President Thomas Klestil on Tuesday described His Majesty King Hussein as a pioneering political figure in the Middle East.

In statements to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at a reception hosted by the Austrian embassy, Dr. Klestil said King Hussein plays a key role in the Middle East peace process and is working on placing Jordan in a suitable status among the world countries.

Austria, he said, will support Jordan politically and economically to help it overcome problems facing it.

He noted that Austrian experts have conducted talks with Jordanian counterparts on means to enhance Jordanian-Austrian ties. He stressed that Jordan's future would be promising when European investments start to flow in and when tourism grows.

Dr. Klestil said his country would actively contribute to the peace process through its participation in the multilateral talks on water, energy and economic development.

The president expressed his country's sympathy with Jordan in its stand on the siege of the port of Aqaba.

He said he was impressed with Jordan's touristic and archaeological attractions, adding that he felt he was in a "beautiful holy land" as soon as he landed in Amman.

Dr. Klestil began a three-day state visit to Jordan on Monday. He held a round of talks with King Hussein shortly after arrival.

The Austrian president visits the ancient Nabatean city of Petra today.

## Israel upbeat on economic accord

PARIS (R) — Israeli Finance Minister Ahraham Shohat said on Tuesday he had reached agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on most areas of economic relations between Israel and the future self-governing Palestinian areas except for trade and labour.

Both sides said in a joint statement on Monday they expected to conclude an economic agreement in Paris next week as part of a wider accord on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, being negotiated in Cairo.

Speaking to Israeli reporters before flying to Tel Aviv for a two-day national holiday, Mr. Shohat said the two delegations had finalised agreement on agriculture, industry and energy.

They were close to agreement on direct and indirect taxation and financial affairs "except for the currency," he said.

The PLO wanted a "symbolic currency" but Israel remained opposed, for the moment, to a separate currency in the five-year interim period of self-rule while seeking clarification of what exactly the Palestinians sought.

Israeli officials have hinted they could live with a "Luxembourg-style" currency that was in practice the Jordanian dinar denominated in Palestinian banknotes and coins.

Palestinian delegation chief Ahmad Qureia said last week the issue was being handled constructively.

The outstanding problem on indirect taxation was the rate of value added tax (VAT) to be levied in the Palestinian territories. Mr. Shohat said Israel has a 17 per cent rate while the Palestinians wanted to set a 15 per cent level.

He said both sides agreed on the principle of open economic relations but considerable work remained to be done on import and export duties, labour, tourism and insurance.

## Fighting rages around Gorazde; Russians seeth

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Muslims defending Gorazde apparently fired upon Bosnian Serb positions around the city Tuesday. Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned that more strikes could heighten the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic.

Bosnian government radio said Gorazde, a government-held town of 65,000 people, was under heavy shelling Tuesday. But Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, the U.N. military commander in Bosnia, said it appeared the town's Muslim defenders were firing at Serb positions.

Although Gen. Rose refused to characterize the situation, it seemed government troops were trying to provoke a Serb response in hopes of bringing more NATO air raids.

The Serbs accused Muslims of launching a new infantry

## Serbs threaten to hit NATO

BOSNIAN Serb leaders, anticipating further North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strikes, warned on Tuesday that their forces will shoot down allied planes if threatened again. "The supreme command has given orders to soldiers that every plane that flies at them should be downed," Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic told his troops during a tour of a front line near the Muslim town of Gorazde.

The U.N. and Red Cross said the situation in Gorazde as tense with Serb troops clashing with the Bosnian army to the north and southwest of town.

The U.N. described the situation in Gorazde as tense with Serb troops clashing with the Bosnian army to the north and southwest of town.

(Continued on page 5)

## Rwandan 'butchery' continues

KIGALI (AP) — The capital echoed from the sound of mortar and heavy machine-gun exchanges Tuesday between government troops and rebels advancing from the north. The streets were filled with men armed with machetes, clubs, hammers and spears.

Six days of ethnic warfare have killed an estimated 20,000 people, 90 per cent of whom are Hutu and eight per cent Tutsi. Belgium administered the country under a U.N. trusteeship from 1916 until Rwanda gained independence in 1962.

Fears mounted that the entire country could become engulfed in fighting between the majority Hutu ethnic group and the minority Tutsi. Their ancient feuds, which have etched Rwanda's history in blood, where reigned last Wednesday when the country's president, a Hutu, was killed in a plane crash.

"We've had trouble before, but I've never seen it this bad," said Tony Wood, a British citizen who has owned a tea factory in Kigali since 1968. "It

seems this has been an excuse for settling old scores."

In

the

countryside,

smoke

waffled

over the lush green hills

that had once earned Rwanda the nickname "the Switzerland of Africa."

New reports of butchery surfaced in this small Central African nation of 8.5 million people, 90 per cent of whom are Hutu and eight per cent Tutsi. Belgium administered the country under a U.N. trusteeship from 1916 until Rwanda gained independence in 1962.

A nun told Spanish national

radio

that about 100 people

were massacred Monday in the town hall in Kibuye, 135

kil

# Middle East News

## Iraq to press case for unfreezing of its assets

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi parliamentarians headed for France on Tuesday to attend a session of the European Parliament where they are expected to make a strong pitch for the release of frozen Iraqi assets and an end to the 45-month-old international sanctions against their country.

Abdul Karim Abbas and Bashir Kadim, members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Iraqi Parliament, are expected to present a summary of the impact of the sanctions against their country and argue that Baghdad has satisfactorily met with all demands of the United Nations Security Council diplomats said.

One of the immediate Iraqi requests to be made formally and informally at the Sirasbourg meetings is expected to be for an unfreezing of Iraqi assets that remain frozen in some of the European countries.

The assets were frozen in line with a United Nations Security Council resolution adopted immediately after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The resolution imposed a sweeping, all-embracing trade embargo against Iraq and ordered a freeze of all Iraqi assets abroad.

A resolution adopted after the end of the Gulf war which evicted the Iraqis from Kuwait in February 1991 left it to individual governments to decide whether to freeze or unfreeze the assets. But only a handful of governments have actually released the funds to the Iraqis.

At the outset of the Gulf crisis, Iraqi assets frozen abroad were estimated to be worth around \$4 billion. Since then, some of the governments

have publicly released the funds while others have clandestinely entered agreements with the Iraqi government. Under the agreements, some of the governments agreed that part of the frozen assets be used to pay for Iraqi imports from their countries and part be used as collateral to guarantee Iraqi letters of credit.

In the maze of a confusing array of arrangements that the Iraqi government has entered into with many sympathetic Western and Third World governments, the actual amount that remains in the frozen accounts is not known.

"I don't think many senior Iraqi officials themselves know what is left and what has been appropriated in their interbank arrangements and agreements," said a source closely familiar with Iraqi moves in the international market.

The two Iraqi members of Parliament are expected to issue a public appeal for the release of frozen Iraqi assets in the member countries of the European Union (EU) as well as for EU support for Baghdad's call for an end to the international sanctions.

A diplomat said Iraq "will have a listening audience particularly from among French members of the European Parliament." The diplomat noted that France has stood out among the five permanent members of the Security Council to argue that Iraq deserved an easing of the crippling sanctions.

At least two French oil companies, Total and Elf-Aquitaine, have signed agreements with the Iraqi government to start oil exploration and production in Iraq as soon as the embargo is lifted.

Socialist and leftist members sympathetic to Iraq represent nearly half of the European

Parliament, elected from the 12 members of the EU. As such, the forum would serve as a morale booster for Iraq, which has been waging an international campaign for an end to the sanctions.

The United States and Britain are the two staunch proponents of continued sanctions against Iraq, fighting every move to ease the embargo, which has deprived Iraq of vital oil revenues to pay for the needs of its 18 million people.

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions, but Baghdad says that its pre-crisis foreign exchange reserves have run out and has no funds to pay for imports.

The European Parliament is more of a ceremonial forum and its decisions and resolutions are not binding on individual governments of the EU.

"But they would make a strong moral impact in their respective countries," said the European diplomat.

Meanwhile, an Italian business delegation is expected here Wednesday after a visit to Baghdad.

Diplomatic sources said Iraqi officials who met with the delegation raised the issue of unfreezing Iraqi assets held in Italian banks. Some of the banks have already entered unpublicised arrangements with the Iraqi government, but others are believed to be holding back.

The delegation includes businessmen and officials of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce, but the team's trip to Baghdad was not arranged or organised by the Italian government, the Italian embassy in Amman said.

During their stay in Amman, the delegation members will hold talks with their Jordanian counterparts on issues related to Jordanian-Italian trade.



BOMBING VICTIMS: Two bombing victims by the dead man went into the boot. Sixteen people were killed and nearly 150 wounded in the bombing raid and artillery fire on Monday (AFP photo)

## Cairo shifts policy on Assiyyut militants

ASSIYYUT, Egypt (R) — Cairo has decided a more subtle approach to militancy in the southern province of Assiyyut and 23 members of Muslim militant organisations have surrendered in the first week of the change, a local leader said.

Mohammad Abdul Mohsen, the head of the Assiyyut branch of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), told reporters that police were keeping a promise to "turn over a new leaf" by treating suspects properly and in accordance with the law.

"Police have responded well," Mr. Abdul Mohsen said. "We are continuing because we feel that we have had positive results in this short period and that the wave of violence in the province can be calmed within a few months."

Assiyyut has been the main theatre for the long conflict between the security forces and the militant Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), which says it is fighting to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

For the first three months of the year, the Gamaa was killing several policemen a week and the security forces fought back by rounding up hundreds of suspects a day at random, alienating the population and exasperating Assiyyut politicians.

The Gamaa would continue to attack state security personnel, banks and the tourist industry "until God grants us just victory against the representative secular regime" of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, it added.

Mr. Abdul Mohsen said: "The political leadership in Cairo gave instructions on April 2 that assessing the situation in Assiyyut should be the responsibility of the governor and the NDP."

The decision in effect pushes the to the sidelines the security forces, who are mostly strangers to the region.

The local politicians are now calling the shots and, after a long period of inactivity, they have gone out of their way to win over the families of militants.

The basic idea is that leaders get in touch with family elders in the villages and urge them to put pressure on their sons who are involved with the Gamaa so that they hand themselves over to the security agencies," he said.

"We have to be able to convince them that this is in their interest and that they will be treated well and in accordance with the law," he added.

Mr. Abdul Mohsen said that on the first day of the new policy families insisted that he accompany them and their sons to the security headquarters as guarantor of their safety.

The news ban has raised fears about the survival of Lebanon's press freedoms, which are unmatched in the Arab world.

During Monday's session, the cabinet issued guidelines to a ministerial committee entrusted with drawing up the new audiovisual media law. Al Anwar daily newspaper said the law would allow the private sector to air news bulletins.

But newspapers said some ministers suggested allowing the stations to broadcast news under censorship and to license those run by former militias only after they cut links to them.

"At first sight some of these young guys looked like they had just come down from the mountains. They had thick beards and they were in a poor psychological state," he said.

Human rights groups such as Amnesty International and Middle East Watch say the government has used emergency law to detain thousands of people, many for political reasons.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alf, arguing the case for extending it, said that 765 people had been killed or wounded in political violence by militants in recent years.

Mr. Sifi, 53, who was one of the few holdover ministers to remain when Mr. Malek formed his government in September, is said to favour gradual reforms to modernise Algeria's economy and society.

## Algeria gets moderate premier

TUNIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, desperately trying to end a bloody feud with Islamic militants, has replaced hardline Prime Minister Redha Malek with a moderate.

Government officials had emphasised for months that the Pope's presence would show the world that the bad old days of sectarian conflict and chronic violence were over and it was time to invest in Lebanon's future.

The politician said the police set free some militants but they could not unilaterally drop charges against others.

"The families realise this... they don't ask more than that their sons be treated properly and legally," he added.

The Gamaa said Moody it was responsible for killing a plainclothes policeman shot dead in Assiyyut on Sunday morning.

It said in a statement: "The operation was the fourth act of revenge against state security executioners, in retaliation for the acts of repression and humiliation which state security and prison officers carry out against Islamist prisoners."

The Gamaa would continue to attack state security personnel, banks and the tourist industry "until God grants us just victory against the representative secular regime" of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, it added.

Mr. Zeroual appointed Mokdad Sifi, equipment minister in the outgoing government, to succeed him, APS reported.

Mr. Malek had consistently advocated a hard line against Muslim fundamentalists fighting to establish an Islamic state in Algeria and opposed to dialogue with the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Mr. Zeroual has called for dialogue with all political forces while Mr. Sifi has a reputation as a moderate who will strongly back Mr. Zeroual's policies.

"Decision-making has been centralised and the political policies of (Lamine) Zeroual can now be put into effect rapidly," one diplomat said.

Mr. Malek was appointed prime minister of the army-backed government only last August, but he took a strongly independent line regarding dialogue with the fundamentalists.

"By eliminating Redha Malek, Liamine Zeroual has nipped in the bud a potential division in the lines of authority," said another political analyst contacted in Algiers by telephone.

Other analysts said Mr. Malek was behind the publication of a newspaper article which said the high command of the army was opposed to Mr. Zeroual's policy of trying to make peace with the militants.

At least 3,300 people have been killed since the authorities scrapped multi-party elections in early 1992, which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

Mr. Sifi, 53, who was one of the few holdover ministers to remain when Mr. Malek formed his government in September, is said to favour gradual reforms to modernise Algeria's economy and society.

## Pope's decision hurts Lebanon's image

BEIRUT (R) — Pope John Paul's postponement of his trip to Lebanon is a blow to the country's image and a setback to the government's efforts to regain international confidence.

The Vatican said on Monday that "grave and unpredictable events" had made conditions unsuitable for the visit.

The decision shocked many of Lebanon's substantial Christian minority, which emerged confused and divided from the 1975-90 civil war and may feel the Pope is abandoning them in a time of trouble.

But other Christians wanted the Pope to stay away, saying the Syrian-backed government has treated them unfairly since the war and his visit would be seen as blessing a situation in which they are discriminated against.

Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir lashed out at the government at Easter, saying it had neither protected the Christians nor treated them with equality.

Government officials had emphasised for months that the Pope's presence would show the world that the bad old days of sectarian conflict and chronic violence were over and it was time to invest in Lebanon's future.

"I hope the visit to Lebanon will be made separately and before any other country in the region," Mr. Puebla said.

That was little comfort to Beirut financiers who called the postponement a huge blow to the government which is trying to attract capital for a \$30 billion reconstruction programme.

"The announcement means that Lebanon is not safe for a papal visit. So how can the government convince investors that it is safe for their capital?" a banker told Reuters.

"This will damage international confidence in the country, its political leadership and its economic prospects," added a foreign exchange dealer.

## U.N. calls for Cyprus accord by end of April

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council expressed concern Monday that agreement was not reached by the end of March on measures designed to build confidence between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities and called for an accord before the end of April.

In a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, Security Council President Colin Keating of New Zealand said members "note that the leader of the Greek Cypriot community is ready to accept the March 21 text of ideas on implementation, provided that the Turkish Cypriot leader, who has voiced numerous objections, does likewise."

"They believe that the next few weeks will provide an important test of the parties' commitment to making progress toward an overall settlement," Mr. Keating said.

The confidence-building measures, intended to help smooth the way for eventually reuniting the island under a federal system, involve reopening Nicosia airport and the resort town of Varosha under U.N. control.

Neither place has been in use since Turkish troops landed in northern Cyprus in 1974 in reaction to a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Mr. Keating said council

But he said Pope John Paul's fears were not for his own safety.

"Naturally the danger was not a personal problem for him because he considers that danger is normal in his ministry as Pope," Mr. Puebla told reporters.

"But if there was danger it was that in one of the ceremonies a crazy element could make an attempt against the Pope," he said.

The government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri has made security a priority as it tries to rebuild Lebanon, but a Jordanian diplomat was murdered in Beirut in January and foreign envoys still see the dangers of Beirut as real.

U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley is escorted around town by a private army. His vehicle preceded and followed by jeeps with machine guns mounted on the roofs. Other Western diplomats also travel with squads of armed guards.

However, Mr. Puebla emphasised that the Pope's visit would go ahead as soon as conditions were ripe and said the pontiff would not make a planned visit to Jerusalem before coming to Lebanon.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR



Rafik Al Hariri  
breach of the press law was. It lowered fines of up to 500 million Lebanese pounds (about \$300,000) that it introduced for newspapers convicted of such breaches to 200 million pounds (\$118,000).

Parliamentary Deputy Speaker Elie Ferzli met Hariri on Monday and demanded that the government amend the press law or parliament would meet on Thursday to settle the matter.

The government also partly lifted a controversial ban it imposed last month on newscasts by private radio and television stations pending a law on the audiovisual media as soon as possible to show it was serious about going ahead with the matter.

But newspapers said some ministers suggested allowing the stations to broadcast news under censorship and to license those run by former militias only after they cut links to them.

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### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....	630341
Civil Defence Department .....	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....	630341
Rescue Police .....	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade .....	891228
Blood Bank .....	775121
Highway Police .....	843402
Traffic Police .....	896390

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	Hussein Medical Centre .....	513813/52
	Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann ..	64281/6</

# Home News

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## International group arrives to study refugee affairs

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A seven-member fact-finding mission led by Marc Perron, assistant deputy foreign minister of Canada, is currently on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the region to discuss Palestinian refugees' affairs.

The group, which comprises delegates from Switzerland, Japan and Sweden, had a meeting Tuesday with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan who outlined Jordan's stand vis-a-vis U.N. Security Council resolutions, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

A Canadian embassy official told the Jordan Times that the group was also meeting with Minister of State Adel Israeil, officials from UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency), which cares for the refugees, and would tour camps to examine services and facilities and interview residents.

He said that Mr. Perron and his team would listen to the views of the refugees about prospects of the Middle East peace process and how it can benefit them in the future, and



A visiting international fact-finding mission touring the region to review the Palestinian refugee situation Tuesday meets with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan (Petra)

also discuss their requests for improving services at the camp.

Mr. Perron, who heads the working group on refugees in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, and his accompanying team could be heading to Lebanon follow-

ing their visit to Jordan, but no formal decision has been taken yet, said the official.

According to Petra, Mr. Al Hassouvo voiced Jordan's complaints about the continued blockade on Aqaba, and quoted Mr. Perron as expressing his team's understanding of

the extra burdens borne by the Kingdom in this respect.

It said that Mr. Perron underlined the importance for a speedy solution to the refugee problem.

Canada's Ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson was present at the meetings.

## Ministry to ease farmers' dilemma of rising costs

AMMAN (Petra) — In a session which heard reports from several members, Agriculture Minister Mohammad Farhan Tuesday briefed the Cabinet on new measures to make available fertilisers, seeds and pesticides at reasonable prices in response to repeated complaints by farmers over the soaring prices of these materials.

The Ministry also plans to provide the market with low-price farm crates and boxes, the minister said.

He said the new measures, are designed to find means to

support local farmers.

The Cabinet also reviewed the water situation in the Azraq oasis where over-pumping has been depleting the basin and dangerously increasing the level of salinity.

Haphazard water pumping at the oasis has also resulted in the drying-up of the natural ponds in that area, according to a Cabinet statement.

It said that the government was taking measures designed to stop the excessive pumping.

Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf briefed the

Cabinet on the outcome of her talks in Cairo with Egyptian officials following her attendance of the opening of the Jordanian wing at the Cairo Annual Trade Fair.

She said Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki who visited the Jordanian wing has underlined the need for further developing Jordanian-Egyptian economic relations.

Mr. Sidki stressed that the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which is chaired by the prime ministers of both countries was due to hold its

meeting in the last week of April, according to the minister.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan outlined the outcome of his talks with the delegation accompanying the Austrian president during his current visit to Jordan.

He said the Austrian side

has expressed a strong interest in promoting cooperation with Jordan and boosting the Kingdom's exports to Austria as well as increasing the number of Austrian tourists to Jordan.

"The JVA has been struggling to secure the 90 per cent allowance since 1992, but its efforts have gone in vain until

today," added Dr. Ajlouni.

According to Dr. Ajlouni,

meat merchants repeatedly

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veterinarians to call off the

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## Guarding against disaster

**TODAY MARKS** another missed opportunity to put into effect last September's much celebrated Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord on interim Palestinian self-rule on the basis of the Gaza-Jericho First formula. Last Dec. 13 was the original date agreed upon between the two sides for beginning the implementation of their deal but that deadline was missed. With the April 13 date also gone as the deadline for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, there is now a sense of resignation among the Palestinians and Arabs that even later dates would also become additional casualties of Israeli deliberate footdragging. "If Mr. Peres says he is willing to respect the new target date, the date at the end of the month," commented PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath in Cairo Monday, "it would be fine with us."

Of course, there is no proof that even this third deadline would be met by Israel. No wonder His Majesty King Hussein was anything but upbeat about the prospects for peace in the area when at a joint press conference with visiting Austrian President Thomas Klestil Monday he interpreted the ongoing stalemate in the Arab-Israeli peace talks on all fronts as a "crucial crisis" that is threatening the whole region with an "abyss of despair and disaster."

With this sense of despair growing by the day, the ground is becoming fertile for the extremists to act on. But if their plans are to be frustrated, only a new international effort can stem the tide of negativity and desperation. The U.S. in particular would have to shoulder the greatest responsibility in spearheading this effort. Washington should be expected to do much more than it has been doing to push the stagnant parleys into the right direction. Afterall, the U.S. has many effective cards that it can still play in that vein.

But to pin all hopes on the Clinton administration to come to the rescue of the peace process in the Middle East could be too optimistic. Greater Arab efforts must be exerted to make our negotiating tactics and strategy more effective and coordinated. Lack of cohesion in Arab ranks could be the single most important reason why the Rabin government has been able to play one Arab card against the other. By sticking together, therefore, the Arab World would make the chances of striking equitable and honourable peace that much stronger, and the consequences of failure less damaging.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AMONG THE European countries Austria was one of the foremost to show interest in the establishment of a lasting peace in the Middle East as it backed all efforts towards achieving that goal, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. In view of its vast ties with the Arab World, in general, and Jordan in particular, Austria has been showing interest in a lasting peace through the implementation of U.N. resolutions and has backed the Middle East peace process as a way for the fulfilment of this objective, said the daily. Referring to the Austrian president's visit to Jordan, the paper said that it crowns a long history of excellent relations between the two countries, which have mutual concerns and which seek the attainment of the same objectives.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily, Hosni Ayesh, said Tuesday that women, engineers, lawyers, youths, pharmacists and doctors have unions in each and every Arab state, maintaining close links with their opposite numbers in different Arab countries by continuous meetings, conferences and also through bilateral agreements and other functions. But, the writer said, none of these have yet thought seriously about contributing to the creation of Arab unity. In the 19th century, customs departments in the then German states were instrumental in paving the ground for their states' merger into the present day German nation through their interactions and inter-links and close cooperation, said the writer. If it is not possible for all the Arab countries to forge a unity at the moment, he said, the least that could happen is small unions among neighbouring Arab countries which, the writer said, are in most need of close cooperation in the face of the challenges and are most in need of unity based on democracy.

## 'Culture and values from an Arab-Islamic perspective'

By Mahmoud El Sherif

ONE OF the important causes for the present tension between the Arab and Muslim Nations and the West, the word "West" refers particularly to West European countries and the United States); a tension that has reached alarming levels recently, is the cultural contradictions between the two sides, and what many Muslims see as a corruptive and undermining influence of Western values to Arab and Muslim peoples. For many Westerners, on the other hand, Islam is an enigmatic, even dangerous religion, and the Arabs a backward race that is incorrigibly hostile to Western interests and civilisation. It may not be fair to blame the average European or American for this misunderstanding of the Arabs and Islam. He has been brought up in a self-centred cultural climate which either simply ignores other cultures, or takes a hostile stand against them, as in the case of Islam and the Arabs.

I do not know of any religion or culture, deliberately distorted or unjustly treated by Western historians and writers more than Islam and the culture of the Arabs. With the exception of a few writers in recent times, the bulk of Western literature about Arabs and Islam has been grossly negative and hostile. To give a more contemporary example used in the New Webster's Dictionary, an "Arab" constitutes "a wanderer; an outcast; a child of the street."

The negative image of Islam and Muslims has been formed in the Western subconscious by the sad memories of the Crusade campaigns and by the Arab and Ottoman invasions of Spain and the Balkans in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The negative portrayal of Islam in classics like Dante's "Divine Comedy" of the 17th century and John Milton's "Paradise Lost" of the 18th century has further intensified this image. Even a liberal thinker like Voltaire wrote a book about "The Intolerance of Muhammed" which was full of scornful attacks on the Prophet of Islam.

These are just a few examples of how the Western mind has been nurtured to look down on Islam and Muslims. Unfortunately, this attitude has been further reinforced by

the mass media. Recent newspaper articles, cartoons, films and television series have tended to depict Muslims as a savage and bloodthirsty people. They are portrayed either as bearded "mad mullahs" shooting innocent people in the streets or fat, voluptuous oil "sheiks" sitting in their tents surrounded by their half-clad concubines.

This strange mixture of ignorance, prejudice and fear has even clouded the vision of some eminent and respected academics, who sounded the alarm recently, warning against an imminent tidal wave of "Islamic hysteria" which would engulf the globe and threaten Western civilisation.

If we agree that the values cherished by any nation are the principal components of its culture, then it may be difficult to draw a sharp line between "Arab" and "Islamic" values. Islam and its value system were the "mould" in which the Arab culture was formed. Of course, Islam assimilated within its value system many Arab traditions and values which preceded its birth in Arabia. These values, once incorporated, assumed the sanctity and the obligatory nature which Islam confers on all its values. It was Islam which gave the Arabs their place in history and shaped, to a considerable extent, their reflexes, mode of behaviour and their reactions towards events and towards other nations and cultures.

This is why, if one wants to understand Arab culture and Islamic values and how they interact, one has to start by acquainting oneself with Islam's history and its value system.

Islam is one of the three major monotheistic religions besides Christianity and Judaism. In fact, it is not a "unique" or a "new" religion but a link in the chain of prophetic missions which include Abraham, Moses and Jesus Christ. Mohammad repeatedly declared that he was simply completing the messages of the prophets who preceded him.

This is why many values respected by Christians and Jews are also respected by Muslims. But, although there is a vast area of agreement between Islam, Christianity and Judaism, this does not mean that the three religions are identical. The central pillar on which the whole edifice of Islam stands is the absolute oneness

and "singularity" of the Almighty. He is the one omnipresent and omnipotent God. He stands outside creation, because he is the Creator of the universe. Every human being will stand before him alone, on the Day of Judgement, to be either rewarded or punished for his righteous or evil deeds in life.

The word "Islam" means complete existential surrender to God. Therefore, a true Muslim is expected to organise all the impulses of his being on one axis, which is God. Mohammad claimed no divinity for himself. He kept reminding his followers that he was only a messenger, a transmitter of the words of God to mankind. Accordingly, it is blasphemous to think that Mohammad is the "founder of Islam" or the "author of the Koran". God himself is the "author" of the Koran. It is the very word of the Almighty transmitted through the prophet. In fact, there are verses in the Koran which curse Mohammad for certain human lapses that he committed and could not but publicise. God warned him against concealing or changing one word in the divine revelations delivered to him.

This is why Muslims believe the Koran to be purely divine. And, for those who appreciate the subtle grace of the Arabic language, the Koran embodies the supreme beauty of this language. Since it was rendered by an illiterate, the statement that "it is God's words", was readily accepted by his followers and Muslims alike throughout the ages. It is precisely because of this unshakable belief in the divinity of the Koran that its injunctions and its value system have such a powerful sway on the majority of Muslims everywhere.

Another important aspect of Islam is that it is not only a religion confining itself to matters of faith and private life of man, but a "canon" which caters for all fields of human existence, be it individual, social, material, economic, political, legal, cultural, national and international. "It is a culture and a civilisation. It is a polity and a method of government. It prescribes rules for marriage, inheritance, divorce, dress, etiquette, food and personal hygiene. It is a spiritual and human totality". Consequently, religion and politics

are inseparable and they form the two sides of the same coin of Islam. The division of human personality into separate "political" and "religious" spheres is alien to Islam's vision of the human being. A true Muslim is a whole undivided being regardless of his profession or occupation. This explains the recurrent appearances in the history of Islam of groups and movements trying to recreate this "wholeness" by structuring the social, economic and political life of Muslim communities according to what they perceive as the true Islamic model. Also it explains why "Islamic revivalism", which represents a yearning to fulfil this dream, will always be around.

Since God is an axial force in the lives of the majority of Muslims, Islam has remained a dynamic and vigorous religion. If some in the "West" have relegated religion to the churches, the majority of Muslims still consider Islam the most influential determinant in their lives.

But when I talk about the centrality of God in Muslim life, I do not mean that this fact applies to all Muslims today. Muslim values have been on the defensive for centuries.

Since the decline of the Muslim Empire in the 15th century and the subsequent abolition of the Islamic Khalifate in 1924, the upsurge of "Westernisation" of Muslim countries has been substantial and the predominance of "Western civilisation" and culture in the 19th and 20th centuries has deeply influenced the Islamic World in many ways.

It was only natural that because of these developments, Western values would gradually take foothold in Muslim societies. This has caused divisions and "the crisis of identity" which we see today in many Muslim countries. The effect was most evident among the majority of urban elites which have adopted Western styles, modes of behaviour and values. But in the rural areas most people have rejected Western values and adhered strictly to what they consider "the Islamic way of life."

In almost every Muslim country, one notices this split between the "secularists", who are composed of most of the ruling élites, the rich-and-the-intellectuals and for whom religion is a bundle of antiquated

folkloric superstitions and the "traditionalists" who live mainly in the rural areas and to whom God and religion are as real as the sun and the stars. There is a state of mutual disrespect, to say the least, between the two sides. These sentiments provide the fertile ground for the growth of Islamic militancy in some Muslim countries.

Islamic values of tolerance and compassion reigned during the ascendancy of Muslim power and culture which has lasted for 700 years and covered a large area of the old world extending from the Himalayas to the Pyrenees. This commonwealth of nations bound by a common faith comprised a multitude of races, sub-cultures and religions, but they all lived together with their cultures flourishing side by side, in harmony and peace.

This is mainly due to Islamic tolerance and freedom of faith stressed clearly in the Koranic verse. "There shall be no compulsion in matters of religion." Whereas a good Muslim is expected to propagate the faith peacefully, he is prohibited from trying to impose by force on others, for individual accountability in Islam depends on free will and free choice. Where there is no freedom there is no responsibility. Thus, compulsory conversion is futile and, therefore, forbidden.

Islam prohibits discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities regarding their basic civil rights. The Koran declares that the followers of all religions can partake of God's grace for their good deeds if they genuinely believe in him. It did not give Muslims the exclusive monopoly of the "kingdom of Heaven". The Koran says "... verily, those of you who believe, as well as those who follow the Jewish faith, and the Sabians, (a monotheistic religion which stands halfway between Judaism and Christianity) and the Christians, all who believe in God and the Day of Judgement and do righteous deeds, shall have no fear and neither shall they grieve."

Though the Koran called upon the Christians and the Jews to accept the mission of Mohammad, it did not make a condition for them to enjoy God's grace if they adhered strictly to the spirit of the Koran. (Continued on page 5)

M. KAHIL



## Left's victory raises questions for Argentine future

By Andres Wolberg-Stok  
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — For investors who have bet billions of dollars on Argentina's "economic miracle", the left's spectacular gains in a key vote raise the question of whether president Carlos Menem's magic could be wearing thin.

Some \$17 billion in capital flowed in last year, attracted by Mr. Menem's seemingly unerring political flair and by free-market reforms which in three years have turned a once dying economy into one of the world's top emerging markets.

Party on the strength of this success, Sunday's election — for a constituent assembly that will allow Mr. Menem to run next year for a second term — gave the ruling Peronists what they proudly underscored was their fifth consecutive nationwide win since 1987.

In the last vote, in October, the Peronists even took Buenos Aires, traditionally a stronghold of their Social Democrat rivals, the Radical

spoken stands on human rights issues.

"Nobody, not even the policians, foresaw the front's victory in Neuquen," Mr. Menem told a news conference later.

In the key Buenos Aires province, the most populous of Argentina's 24 voting districts, the front trailed far behind the Peronists' 43 per cent or so, but some projections showed it edging out the Radicals.

Mr. Menem, 63, strived not to address these results separately in his news conference after the election, arguing that what mattered was the overall turnout across the country.

"The country is one, there is no such thing as airtight compartments," he told reporters.

Local analysts said the results might have been different if voters had been picking a government rather than appointing a constitutional assembly, whose central outcome is already a certainty.

"The vote for the Broad

Front is a protest vote, a vote of anger," said Mariano Grondona, one of Argentina's most respected political commentators. "It's not a mandate to do something."

Mr. Menem took comfort in the fact that even in the northern province of Santiago Del Estero, scene last year of the worst riots in four years of belt-tightening, the Peronists had taken more than half the votes.

But he also acknowledged the rise in some provinces of a right-wing party led by a cashiered army lieutenant-colonel, Aldo Rico, along with the gains of the Broad Front.

Mr. Menem's predicament may stem in part from his success in roping in the radicals with November's deal on constitutional reform, which deprived critics and opponents of a traditional outlet and drove them into the arms of these smaller parties.

"Now, evidently, there are two more political groups that have demonstrated their clear presence," Mr. Menem said.

## LETTERS

### Irrelevant opinion

To the Editor:

I CAREFULLY read Mrs. G. Woodward's letter (Jordan Times, April 7). Being a JTV watcher since many years, I have always appreciated Jordan Television (JTV) programmes and their continuous improvements.

As regards Arabic series with English subtitles, I must confess that "End of a Brave Man" was an excellent series and I do not share Mrs. Woodward's views; she should most probably try to become more sensitive to the Middle Eastern culture and way of life (past and present).

Moreover, I should like to congratulate the JTV sport services to air all the international football games: European, African, Arab and Jordanian. This is a very appropriate and popular initiative which the foreign community in Jordan appreciates. Again for Mrs. Woodward's benefit, I should like to inform her that the most popular sport in the world is football. The opinion of some U.S. citizens living in Jordan, while the U.S. is ready to welcome "World Cup 1994", seems to me to be totally irrelevant.

Moreover, Jordanian sport lovers constitute the absolute overwhelming majority who are watching with pleasure these wonderful football games.

Mrs. Anna Maria Khatib and friends, Amman.

### 'Catastrophic' is JTV's programming

To the Editor:

OH HOW I do so agree with Mrs. Woodward's comments on the catastrophic programming on Channel 2 of Jordan Television (JTV). Having worked at JTV and been associated with the local broadcast media for the past 25 years, I have been bombarded with requests from friends and acquaintances to represent their concern.

The general feeling is that if current trends continue, it would be better to shut down the channel completely.

We are perfectly able to watch Arabic serials on the main channel (although professional subtitles are needed). If JTV is insisting on destroying our previously excellent foreign channel, could they please confine the destruction of our written English language to the Arabic channel, where those who can bear the irritation may choose to view, and the rest of us will know to invest in satellite dishes and home videos.

Morag McKay, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.





## Aid groups say poor to lose from trade accord

MARRAKESH, Morocco (R) — International aid and environment groups argued Tuesday that the world's poorest countries would emerge as losers from the global trade treaty to be signed this week.

In statements issued as foreign and trade ministers from 125 countries opened a four-day meeting to sign the accord, they called for industrialized states to compensate developing countries for the losses.

Implicitly rejecting assertions by Peter Sutherland, head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), that all would gain from the far-reaching treaty, the aid groups said African and Caribbean countries in particular would suffer.

"As a result of the deal, the losers will face higher costs to feed their people as the price of cereals increases on world markets," said the London-based Christian Aid Organisation which links British and Irish churches.

The poorest states "will face declining terms of trade and they will seek the value of their current trading references with Europe undermined," the groups said in a report aimed at the Marrakesh trade summit.

Some three quarters of the countries who took part in the seven-and-a-half-year Uruguay Round negotiations — and have sent ministers to Marrakesh — are from the developing world, where governments have generally hailed



Peter Sutherland

the treaty as offering new trade revenues to fund development.

But the British Oxfam Group and the Swiss-based World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said the treaty, which cuts tariff barriers and reduces permitted subsidies to farmers, would remove present support of vital importance to many of the world's least-development states.

And the Brussels-based International Coalition for Development action (ICDA) said the round had avoided setting rules on competition and business practices for Trans-National Corporations, or TNCS.

"In the past, the industrialised countries have boycotted international attempts for binding international rules on TNCS. The countries and populations of the Third World have been suffering most of the negative effects," the ICDA declared.

Mr. Sutherland insisted in an interview with Reuters Monday that the treaty created a new system in which every country was a winner.

Without the new system of rules administered by a more powerful World Trade Organisation (WTO), which will absorb the GATT next year, the developing countries would have faced increasing marginalisation, he declared.

"For the first time ever they are provided with zero tariff and assured access to developed country markets," he said. Agriculture and textiles, key areas of interest to the Third World, became an effective part of the new trading order.

But the Christian Aid report said negotiations on agriculture, which often employs more than half the workforce in developing states, and failed to realise hopes for much larger cuts in subsidies and protection for European farmers.

The world trade deal is unlikely to open either the United States or the European Union (EC) markets to very much Third World competition," it said. Cheap, subsidised food would still be dumped on international markets.

In overall trade, the 69 countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of former colonial states whose goods have favourable access to the EU would be especially hit by the lowering of general trade barriers.

## Syria wants private investment to go to \$50b

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's Supreme Investment Committee headed by Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi is hoping private investment will go up to \$50 billion in the next 10 years, an industry official said Monday.

Yahya Al Hindi, chief of Syria's Chamber of Industry, told a meeting of Arab industrialists such a level of investment would provide jobs for one million people.

"The investment body headed by the prime minister is giving all facilities to investors. We hope the money invested in Syria by the private sector will go up to \$50 billion in the next 10 years," Mr. Hindi said.

He said Syria, with a population of some 13 million, needs

a work force of 50 per cent of the population to maintain a balanced income. The actual workforce now constitutes only 30 per cent of the population.

He said Syria's industrial investment was good compared with other Arab states, referring in laws adopted in 1982 and 1991 which exempt industrial projects from tax for up to six years.

Mr. Hindi said 474 projects with a capital of 75 billion Syrian pounds (\$1.78 billion) were set up during the last three years to benefit from the law.

The number of small and medium industrial projects rose to 36,416 with a capital of 73 billion Syrian pounds (\$1.73 billion) in 1993. These projects provided 186,000 jobs, Mr. Hindi said.

Mr. Hindi urged more Syrian, Arab and foreign investors to come to Syria and promised to facilitate their task.

He urged Arab states to invest more in the development of human resources and high-technology and to promote the role of industrial banks. Mr. Hindi also called on Arab states to promote inter-Arab trade.

"Arabs should work for the establishment of a common Arab economic market like the European market and to remove all borders to facilitate the movement of goods and people and to allow Arab individuals to move within a big market of 230 million Arabs," Mr. Hindi said.

## Major German real estate firm may face bankruptcy

FRANKFURT (R) — A major German property firm with bank debts running into the billions of marks (dollars) faced possible bankruptcy Tuesday following the disappearance of its chief executive, real-estate magnate Juergen Schneider.

Schneider's company, Dr. Juergen Schneider A.G. which owns some of the most prominent commercial properties in Frankfurt and elsewhere in

launched into the problems facing the group.

The news cast a pall over Germany's financial markets, with dealers marking down shares on fears that the country's biggest bank could be heavily exposed through its loans to Schneider.

Sources in the German real-estate industry said the group probably had debts of around three billion marks (\$1.75 billion).

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar	Dutch guilder	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish krona	Norwegian krona	Danish krona
1.383/40										
1.717/80	1.927/88	2.446/74	35.32/36	5.873/80	1638.60/1	103.50/60	7.892/25	7.429/40	6.716/10	
1.717/80	1.927/88	2.446/74	35.32/36	5.873/80	1638.60/1	103.50/60	7.892/25	7.429/40	6.716/10	
One sterling	\$1.469/20									
One ounce of gold	\$376.60/377.00									

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## Mediators arrive to break S. African election impasse

JOHANNESBURG (R) — International mediators started arriving in Johannesburg Tuesday to seek a way out of a constitutional impasse threatening more violence in the run-up to South Africa's first all-race elections.

The first to arrive was Lord Carrington, the 74-year-old former British foreign secretary who negotiated Zimbabwe's 1980 independence after a guerrilla war against Ian Smith's white minority regime.

The army said at least eight people were killed overnight in violence in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu and surrounding Natal province, where the poll-boycotting Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party is demanding virtual self-rule.

But the African National Congress (ANC) and the government has rejected any postponement of the elections despite mediation.

"The Inkatha Freedom Party goes to the mediation with the view that it will be able to persuade the mediators to postpone the election dates," ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said. "We want to make it clear that those days

are sacrosanct, they cannot be tampered with," he told the weekly session of the multiparty Transitional Executive Council (TEC) overseeing the run-up to the April 26 polls.

More than 170 people have died in the region since President F.W. De Klerk imposed a state of emergency there on March 31 to halt spiralling violence ahead of the elections.

The bloodshed, in which more than 10,000 people have died over the past decade, is mainly between Zulu supporters of Nelson Mandela's ANC and chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha.

The ANC agreed to Inkatha's call for international mediation over its demands for a large measure of autonomy for KwaZulu-Natal, home territory for the 8.5 million Zulus.

The financial rand, a key indicator of foreign investor sentiment, edged upwards in Tuesday morning trade as calm returned after plunging to a record low of 5.62 to the dollar over concerns about the political situation.

There was initial confusion

at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport over Lord Carrington's arrival, with security guards at the VIP lounge denying any knowledge of him.

He eventually emerged looking tired and frail after the overnight flight from London, but refused to comment on his mediation mission other than to say he hoped "we will be useful."

Other mediators were arriving through the day. They were former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Justice H.K. Bhagwati from India, Justice A. Leon Higginbotham from the United States, Paul Kevenborster from Germany, Justice Antonio La Pergola from Italy, and Jean Laponce from Canada.

Norway, which last year brokered a peace agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel, said it was also sending a mediator — Foreign Ministry adviser Tom Vraaasen — at the request of Inkatha and the ANC.

ANC spokeswoman Baleka Kgositse said the terms of reference for the mediators

had been worked out with Inkatha, but they were being revised due to a decision "that the government should participate as a full partner."

"This has meant that the terms of reference — which have yet to be spelled out in full — are now being looked at by the government, the ANC and Inkatha," she said.

Government sources said the government believed it should be a part of the mediation talks, but was "a little bit skeptical about the exercise."

"The government has no problem with a mediation effort if it succeeds in bringing Inkatha back into the election process," a senior source said. It would also welcome an end to the constitutional impasse, in which Inkatha has rejected the interim post-apartheid constitution approved by parliament in December.

But the sources said there would be problems if mediation suggested delays in the elections. There would also be problems if the talks "open up the whole constitutional agreement reached after several years of laborious negotiations."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Russia, U.S.-plan joint exercises

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian and American troops will hold joint military exercises on Russian soil for the first time ever this summer, officials said Monday. The exercises, involving 250 officers and soldiers on each side, will last about one week in July and help prepare for future United Nations peacekeeping operations. Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Vyacheslav Sedov said. They will be held near the town of Totskoye, 700 kilometres east of Moscow. The site was used for a 1954 above-ground nuclear test involving Soviet army servicemen, but Mr. Sedov said the level of radiation is not dangerous. The troops will come from Russia's 27th Motorized Rifle Division and the U.S. army's 3rd Infantry Division, he added. "There will be no mock combat, since it is not called for by the peacekeepers' mandate, and they will not shoot a single live round," Mr. Sedov said. Ultra-nationalist legislator Vladimir Zhirinovsky said in parliament last week that the exercises might culminate in an "occupation" of Russian territory by "foreign troops." "The generals who organise joint military exercises with NATO will lose all their stars when the regime changes," he threatened. But Maj.-Gen. Anatoly Slyuskin, commander of the 27th Division, told the ITAR-TASS news agency that the goal of the exercise is "learning to seek political solutions to conflicts."

#### Bonn's Free Democrats to stay with Kohl

BERLIN (R) — The Free Democrats, threatened with the loss of their balancing role in Germany's coalition politics, ended the suspense by announcing Monday they will stay with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats. The Free Democrats previously had fended off pleas from Mr. Kohl's conservatives that they lay out their cards well in advance of the Oct. 16 national elections. The centrist party has fared poorly in local and state elections, and could be wiped out as a national force if it does not get the minimum 5 per cent required for seats in parliament. The coalition has functioned well, Klaus Kinkel, the Free Democrats' leader and foreign minister, said in Bonn after a meeting of the party leadership. "This coalition should continue to work in the interests of Germany," Mr. Kinkel said. The decision, made public four months earlier than expected, will disappoint opposition leader Rudolf Schaeffer, currently in Washington to meet President Bill Clinton during a get-acquainted tour.

#### Grachev: 1,349 soldiers died last year

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 1,300 Russian soldiers died last year, about half of them in car crashes and other accidents, according to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. One-fourth of the deaths were classified as suicides, and one of every five occurred during maintenance of military equipment, Gen. Grachev said on television Monday night. Twenty-seven deaths — two per cent of the 1,349 reported last year — were the result of hazing by fellow soldiers, Mr. Grachev said. The high number of peacetime deaths has provoked protest from soldiers' mothers, including an organisation of soldiers' mothers that has demanded improvements in safety, training and health care. Gen. Grachev answered questions on a TV talk show hosted by Russian journalist Vladimir Posner. The defence minister described pacifism as an "anti-state" activity, noting that 18 months of army service as a legal obligation for men, Russia had about 2.3 million soldiers at the end of 1993 and has announced plans to reduce the armed forces to 2.1 million by the end of this year. The former Soviet army had about 3.7 million soldiers. Gen. Grachev said 26,500 women are serving in the Russian military.

#### France warns Zhirinovsky

PARIS (R) — France said Tuesday that Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky had made "unacceptable statements" on a visit to Strasbourg and warned him against any repetition. But the Foreign Ministry stopped short of expelling him for violating the terms of his visa to attend the Council of Europe parliamentary assembly, where he called Monday for Russia to bomb NATO bases in Italy in retaliation for air strikes on Bosnian Serbs. "The statements of Mr. Zhirinovsky are unacceptable and he has again been warned to abstain from such statements," Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque told reporters. Asked if Mr. Zhirinovsky would be expelled if he made further inflammatory statements, Mr. Duque replied: "I have nothing to add."

#### 3 Westerners abducted in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Two Britons and an Australian living in Cambodia have been abducted by unidentified gunmen in South of the country, police and diplomats said Tuesday. "They were taken from their car — bundled off — and their taxi driver sent on his way," a British embassy spokesman said. He denied reports that a \$10,000 ransom demand had been made for three, two women and a man all aged around 30. The three are managers of the popular Cafe Rendezvous restaurant and were returning to Sihanoukville with food and provisions for the Khmer New Year holiday, one of their friends told Reuters. Police Major-General Kuy Yary, head of the National Security Ministry's Radio Communications Department, confirmed unidentified gunmen had stopped the taxi. "For the time being we only understand that they (abductors) are a group of gunmen. We've sent our forces to investigate this incident," he told Reuters. "On April 11, they (the foreigners) left Phnom Penh for Sihanoukville by taxi. When the taxi reached Sre Ambel district at about 5.30 pm a group of gunmen appeared on the road and stopped the taxi. "They forced the three foreigners to get out and let the taxi go on," he said.

#### U.S. sends home MIA remains

HANOI (R) — The U.S. military sent home Tuesday nine more sets of remains believed to be those of servicemen killed in the Vietnam War, and said Vietnamese cooperation in the search for American war dead had improved since the economic embargo was lifted. Nine wooden boxes of fragments — five discovered by joint U.S.-Vietnamese search teams at crash and burial sites and four handed in by Vietnamese villagers — were placed in metal caskets and loaded into a U.S. Air Force C-141 transport plane. The remains will be flown to Hawaii, where military forensic and dental experts will examine them to try to make a positive identification. They were turned up by eight teams that investigated more than 60 MIA cases and excavated 12 burial or crash sites during the most recent search, which ended on March 22. The search was the first since U.S. President Bill Clinton lifted the 30-year-old U.S. economic embargo against Hanoi in early February.

#### 13 people die in Russia floods

MOSCOW (AP) — Spring floods caused by melting snow have killed at least 13 people and wreaked enormous damage on villages and crops in central and southern Russia, officials said Tuesday. "It is hard to assess the full damage, and the floods are still moving north," said Anatoly Streletsov, spokesman for the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the government body that copes with natural disasters. Flooding has taken 10 lives in the southern province of Kalmykia and another in the Penza region of central Russia, he said. In Penza alone, swollen rivers inundated 15 towns and villages as well as 5,630 hectares (13,960 acres) or farmland. In the Volgograd region in the south east, the Volga River and its tributaries have flooded about 500 square kilometres (193 square miles), washing out 51 kilometres (32 miles) of highways and 53 bridges. Mr. Streletsov blamed local authorities for failing to take precautionary measures after an unusually snowy winter. "There was between 50 and 70 per cent more snow than usual in winter," he said. "But no one did anything until our ministry raised really serious alarm."

#### China cracks down on secrets smugglers

HONG KONG (R) — Chinese authorities in the southern city of Shenzhen are cracking down on smuggling state economic secrets to neighbouring Hong Kong, a Beijing-funded news agency reported Tuesday. Customs officials reported 20 cases of tourists trying to leave China with a total of more than 100 classified documents in their luggage between January and March this year, the Hong Kong China News Agency said. And Hong Kong customs officials passed on 49 cases of official document smuggling to Shenzhen authorities last year, an increase of 100 per cent on the year before, the report said. It said those caught were mostly Chinese citizens seeking to sell the documents to foreign businesses and Hong Kong public servants. The documents usually contained trade and economic information classified as secret by the state.

#### Russian troops clash with Tajik rebels

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — Russian Border Guards exchanged fire Monday with guerrillas trying to cross the border from Afghanistan and detained one Tajik rebel, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. In three separate incidents along the border, the Russians repulsed attackers who fled back into Afghanistan, the news service said. There were no reports of injuries or deaths. Thousands of Russian soldiers are patrolling the border in Tajikistan, an impoverished, mountainous former Soviet republic in Central Asia that has been torn by civil war. A coalition of Islamic nationalist and self-proclaimed democratic forces has battled the former Communists who lead Tajikistan. The fighting has killed about 20,000 people and left 500,000 refugees.

#### U.K. police find remains of woman

GLoucester, England (AP) — Human remains found in a field near a former home of an alleged serial killer are the bones of a woman, police said Monday. The remains were discovered Sunday by police who have been digging for nearly two weeks in the field in Kembley, 10 miles (16 km) south of the Gloucester home of accused murderer Frederick West. The bodies of nine women were exhumed from Mr. West's house and garden. The 52-year-old house builder is charged with murdering nine women, whose ages ranged from 15 to 21, over a 14-year period up to 1987. The last victim was said to be his daughter Heather, who was 16 when she vanished in May 1987. Digging at the field was suspended after the remains were found so a government pathologist could examine the site. The field is just over a mile (1.6 km) from the small village of Much Marcle, Mr. West's childhood home. Mr. West and his first wife, Catherine Costello, began their married life in Much Marcle.

#### Australia to double aid to Vietnam

HANOI (AP) — Australia and Vietnam have agreed that a group led by members of Australia's parliament will visit Hanoi in July to inquire about human rights and other issues. Prime Minister Paul Keating announced Monday. Australia also will double its aid to Vietnam to \$144 million over the next four years. Mr. Keating said. In a speech prepared for a banquet Monday night given by his Vietnamese counterpart, Vo Van Kiet, Mr. Keating said he was very pleased that the two countries have worked out the details of the July visit. He met separately with Mr. Kiet and President Le Duc Anh. The meetings were closed to reporters.



A group of African National Congress youths, some with home-made guns, get ready to fight (photo)

## After sparking government crisis, Hosokawa seeks mediator role

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who ignited a bitter power struggle with his sudden resignation, urged Japan's bickering coalition chiefs Tuesday to shelve their feud and choose his successor.

Mr. Hosokawa's shock resignation Friday sparked a struggle to choose the next leader within the unwieldy ruling alliance, polarised into opposing camps led by rival titans Ichiro Ozawa and Masayoshi Takemura, the chief cabinet secretary.

After four days of on-off meetings that have produced no progress, coalition representatives agreed to resume talks Wednesday.

The prime minister, who stepped down amid a growing scandal over his financial dealings in the 1980s, said he now hoped to mediate to help avert a political crisis.

"I would like to do what I can to restore confidence in politics," he said in a speech to business executives.

The prime minister warned

ing candidate to take over if the coalition manages to paper over policy differences, which have pushed it to the brink four times in as many months.

While alliance leaders jostled for position in the heated negotiations, Mr. Hata too

urged conciliation. "It's true we're caught up in an emotional wrangle, but it's not like the coalition's framework has fallen apart," he told a news conference. "I think we can overcome our differences and reach an agreement in talks."

Mr. Hata, a former finance minister with experience in banding together U.S.-Japan trade issues, is widely seen as the best choice for a post that will require urgent efforts to boost a sagging economy and resolve a trade dispute with Washington.

After days of uncertainty, it appeared clear late Tuesday that Mr. Hata would after all travel to Morocco this week for a global trade meeting, and meet U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

## Ukrainian parties begin bargaining

KIEV (R) — Bargaining between Ukraine's fragmented political parties started Tuesday after Communists collected more than a quarter of the seats in the country's first post-Soviet parliamentary election.

Unofficial results late Monday gave the Communists and their Socialist and Agrarian allies 124 of the 450 seats, mostly in eastern Ukraine's industrial heartland.

Moderate nationalists, led by the Rukh Party which spearheaded Ukraine's drive for independence, got about

60, with their strength lying in central and western Ukraine.

The outcome was certain to produce confrontation on ideological and regional lines. Both sides were likely to find allies among the more than 160 deputies listed as independents.

Complex electoral rules left about 120 seats vacant pending new by-elections.

Talks were under way to firm up the alliance between the three-left-wing groupings. Rukh had launched informal contacts with a centrist group.

## Seoul rejects North's offer for conference

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Tuesday rejected a North Korean offer to hold a conference on reunification of the peninsula, saying the idea would in no way help settle a bitter dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Communist North Korea told the South Monday it hoped to deliver letters to political and civic leaders, containing the proposals to hold the conference in Pyongyang or Seoul on Aug. 15, 49th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule.

The Seoul government has insisted it is the sole channel for South-North dialogue, and has jailed some South Korean officials who have in the past tried to make personal contacts.

The two Koreas have had no border contact since March 18 when the North Korean officials walked out of a meeting

with Southern counterparts, warning that confrontation over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear arms programme could lead to war on the peninsula.

The spokesman said he hoped the North would return to the negotiating table and promptly allow inspections of its suspected nuclear sites.

South Korea's domestic Yonhap News Agency said Tuesday China was expected to brief South Korea on its efforts to settle the row over North Korea's nuclear programme during working-level talks this week in Beijing.

China, North Korea's sole remaining major ally, is considered pivotal to resolving the impasse with Pyongyang, which has resisted international calls to allow full inspection of its nuclear sites.

## Clinton pay \$14,615 in back taxes, interest

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary paid \$14,615 in back taxes and interest Monday after their aides and lawyers discovered unreported income from commodities investments in 1980, officials said.

At a White House briefing, the Clintons' personal attorney told reporters the president and first lady had failed to report a capital gain of \$6,498 from 1980 commodities trading by Mrs. Clinton at the time it happened.

The federal tax on this gain would have been \$3,315 the state tax would have been \$514. But the interest over the past 14 years added up to \$10,134 and \$652, respectively. "dwarfing" the tax itself, Kendall said.

"The Clintons are today paying these taxes plus accrued interest," Mr. Kendall said. "The Clintons do not know

records said. Her initial investment with Stephens was \$5,000, and Stephens initiated trades with three commodities brokers.

Figuring the losses and the gains from all three brokers, she closed the Stephens account with \$10,489 in May 1980.

Mrs. Clinton's commodities trading came to light last month because of the investigation into other business dealings she and her husband had in the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas.

No one has accused the first lady of any legal wrongdoing, but many were stunned by the gains in the markets.

The White House said last month that Mrs. Clinton left the market because she found it too nerve-wracking after she became pregnant.

## Ella Fitzgerald had both legs amputated

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ella Fitzgerald had both of her legs amputated below the knee a year ago, a spokeswoman for the legendary jazz singer said Monday. The spokeswoman, Margaret Nutt, said she did not know why Ms. Fitzgerald, who will be 76 on April 25, was operated on or why it was not announced at the time. "It's old news now. It happened a year ago. Ella is fine. This thing only came up because a New York newspaper, the Daily News, carried a story on it. Our phones have been ringing off the hook ever since," said Ms. Nutt, who works for Ms. Fitzgerald's production company, Salle Productions. Ms. Fitzgerald has been hospitalised on a number of occasions in recent years due to complications from diabetes. She underwent heart bypass surgery in 1986 and had further surgery a year later to remove bone particles in her right foot as part of her diabetes treatment. Ms. Fitzgerald, who was born in Newport News



# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1994 9

## Orlando's three-point barrage thwarts Knicks

**NEW YORK (R)** — Nick Anderson scored a season-high 36 points as the Orlando Magic used a 3-point barrage to thwart the New York Knicks 108-100 Monday.

"Tonight was one of the best basketball games I have ever been involved in," said Anderson, who made six 3-pointers.

Orlando connected on 11 from long distance in winning its fourth straight game. The teams combined for an NBA record 47 attempts from 3-point range.

New York, which failed in its third straight attempt to clinch the Atlantic Division title and fell into a tie with Atlanta for best record in the Eastern Conference at 52-23, was led by Patrick Ewing, who scored 22 points and grabbed 18 rebounds.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 23 points and Anfernee Hardaway added 20 for the Magic, who closed to within six games of the first-place Knicks with seven games to play.

The Knicks, who trailed by as many as 10 points, used a 12-3 spurt to close to within 103-100 with 1:20 remaining but could get no closer.

To Charlotte, Dell Curry scored 14 of his 21 points in a decisive 16-4 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to lead the Hornets past the Miami Heat 99-97.

Alonzo Mourning scored 19 points and Larry Johnson had 15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Hornets, who won four straight and closed within 3½ games of Miami in the race for the final Eastern Conference playoff

NBA standings after games played Monday (tabulate under won, lost, winning percentage and games behind):

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
★ New York	52	23	.693	—
★ Orlando	46	29	.613	6
New Jersey	40	35	.533	12
Miami	40	36	.526	12½
Boston	28	47	.373	24
Philadelphia	23	52	.307	29
Washington	22	53	.293	30

#### Central Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
★ Atlanta	52	23	.693	—
★ Chicago	51	24	.680	1
Cleveland	42	33	.560	10
Indiana	40	35	.533	12
Charlotte	36	39	.480	16
Detroit	20	54	.270	31½
Milwaukee	19	55	.257	32½

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Midwest Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
★ Houston	54	20	.730	—
★ San Antonio	53	23	.697	2
★ Utah	47	28	.627	7½
Denver	37	37	.500	17
Minnesota	20	55	.267	34½
Dallas	9	66	.120	45½

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Y Seattle	57	18	.760	—
★ Phoenix	49	26	.653	8
★ Portland	45	30	.600	12
Golden State	44	31	.587	13
LA Lakers	33	41	.446	23½
Clippers	26	49	.347	31
Sacramento	26	49	.347	31

\* - Clinched playoff spot

Y - Clinched division title



World squash champion Jansher Khan holds the cup after his 3-1 victory over Australia's Brett Martin Monday, his third British Open win. The games ran 9-1, 9-0, 9-10 and 9-1 (AFP photo)

## Reneberg advances at Alabama championship

**BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (R)** — Third-seeded American Richey Reneberg, the highest seed in action at the \$300,000 U.S. clay court championships, advanced easily to the second round Monday.

Reneberg, ranked 36th, defeated fellow American Chris Woodruff, the 1993 U.S. collegiate champion, 6-1, 6-2.

Fourth-seeded Jason Stoltenberg of Australia beat unseeded American Alex O'Brie, another former collegiate champion, 6-2, 6-4.

At Goldeos State, Latrell Spurrell scored 33 points to lead seven players in double figures as the Warriors cruised past the Dallas Mavericks 122-108.

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